

# Chamber recognizes best in business

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As a result of their environmental practices and activities, Christ the King was certified an ECO School.

During the past year, the club also took part in many community projects, as well as in-school projects, like distributing more than 1,000 energy efficient light bulbs through the Project Porchlight Program, as well as numerous Town of Halton Hills sponsored cleanups and other environmental activities.

"We even approached the high school administration here to have the exams printed on both sides (of the paper), instead of single sides," said Dimytosh, "And by doing so, saved the school more than 75,000 sheets of paper."

## Employee of the Year

Dale Turnbull loves his job.

He feels he has the best job in the world, working at Food Basics for the past two and a half years, helping customers with their groceries, and making sure they have enough shopping carts in the corral.

And being named Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce Employee of the Year is the icing on the cake for him.

"I love helping people," said Turnbull, "The customers here are such good people, and I just enjoy helping them every day."

Rain or shine, Turnbull can be found in the parking lot, gathering up the shopping carts or lifting water softener salt into the trunk of a car, always with a smile,

"There are lots of people here who need help," said Turnbull, "The seniors, the pregnant moms, and those parents with little kids—I'll help them all."

Turnbull was nominated as a result of two letters to the editor in *The Independent*

& Free Press. Two individuals wrote in to express their appreciation of Turnbull's friendly and helpful manner.

Turnbull was surprised when he received news he'd been chosen as Employee of the Year.

"I was flabbergasted," said Turnbull. "I only wish my Dad was around to see it happen, but Mom is pretty proud of me."

Turnbull's supervisor, Food Basics store manager Ken Ward, wasn't surprised at the announcement.

"I receive compliments about Dale almost every day," said Ward, "The customers love him, and he does a terrific job. His job, keeping the outside lot in order and helping customers, can be a thankless one at time, but Dale does it with so much enthusiasm, and we're lucky to have him here. The people love him."

## Entrepreneur of the Year

Judy Avery of Accountant on Main admits she was a bit low-key about being named Entrepreneur of the Year by Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce.

"When Nancy Wilkes (last year's winner) dropped by to tell me, she didn't get much of a reaction from me," said Avery, "But as I thought about it, it snowballed, and I became quite excited. I called my Dad and said, 'Guess who is Entrepreneur of the Year?' I also received calls from my girlfriend and others—it started out slow, but it became an amazing feeling to be chosen."

Located at 52 Main Street S., in Georgetown, Avery opened her office in September 2006, after extensively renovating the building. She admits that opening up as a Chartered Accountant (CA) was a rather unique turn of events.

"I started out in retail, running a butch-



Entrepreneur of the Year Judy Avery of Accountant on Main. Photo by Ted Brown

er shop, and a bakery," said Avery, "I received my business sense in that area, but discovered I didn't want to work in retail."

She started night school in 1994 to achieve her goal, and eventually started articling with a large Toronto-based firm, and was ready to branch out on her own after she gathered the experience.

Today she has three employees, and is quick to add that her husband Dale was instrumental in getting her set up in her newly-renovated office.

"He helped so much with the renovation," said Avery, "I know what I have to do in my business, but he got me here, where I am today."

In addition to offering a service to her clients, Avery also believes in being involved in the area she works. She lives close by her workplace, and sits on a number of committees with the Business

Improvement Association (BIA) to help maintain the beauty and quaint atmosphere of the downtown area.

She also likes to be involved with the community, taking part in such activities as a toy drive at Christmas, and joining in the fun during the downtown Christmas open house, handing out free hot chocolate to passersby.

"I have a philosophy," said Avery. "Do something nice for people and they'll come back to you."

"I really enjoy working on Main Street," said Avery. "The people here are wonderful, and the shops are great. I'm so pleased to be a part of it."

The award recipients will be recognized at a dinner March 5 at North Halton Golf and Country Club. Tickets are \$60 per person and are available from the Chamber office at 328 Guelph St. or by phoning 905-877-7119.



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